

The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1908.

THE PRIMARY PLAN.

According to the programme arranged by the two houses of the General Assembly they will take a recess from the 15th of May until the month of November, and there is a vast deal of work to be done by them in the next few weeks. One of the subjects which remains to be disposed of is that relating to primary elections.

While there is some question whether the expenses of the primaries ought to be paid by the public, or by contributions from the candidates and the general public, there is none—certainly there ought to be none—that all frauds committed at any primary should be punished just as if they were committed at regular elections.

To that extent, most assuredly, the Legislature may go, confidently relying upon the support of the people.

The elections to take place this fall will be of great importance and most of the nominations of candidates will be made by primaries. Hence the necessity for the Legislature to give to those primaries the fullest protection of the law.

The matter of "financing" the primaries—the payment of the expenses incident to them—is also still undetermined. It is difficult—indeed, it is impossible—to see how a successful "State" primary could be conducted unless provision be made for paying its cost by the cities and counties, but local primaries have gotten along very well hitherto without public aid.

We know that in South Carolina and in some other States State primaries have been held without help from the public treasury, but we are reliably informed that in Georgia and Alabama strong efforts are now being made to cause the public to assume the costs of State primaries.

We are very heartily in favor of nominations by primaries. We believe the people want them and we do not doubt that to have them (and have them uniformly and properly conducted) the taxpayers would cheerfully bear their expense.

We should like to see this whole subject disposed of now, and disposed of rightly, but at least the Legislature should make provision for safeguarding the primaries that will be held before members return to their seats in November.

VIRGINIA'S NEEDS.

The days of blind and supreme self-satisfaction have passed, and the time has come when men desire rather to look cold facts in the face and to profit by the experience of others. It is an age of competition, an age of comparisons. Men are not satisfied to stand where their fathers stood; they are not satisfied with the fruits of the past. We demand growth in the present and look forward to greater rewards in the future. We are determined to excel others, and even to surpass ourselves. This alone is success. There is a spirit in the air that makes us anxious to move forward and to increase every possession in every department of life. This is the eager and inspiring breath of the twentieth century, and it is well to inhale it deeply.

We live in great days, an epoch of renown—no history will declare—for the Old Dominion. Much has recently been done to establish anew her foundations. What more can now be done to broaden them and promote permanent prosperity? In two words, we need more men, and we need more money or available credits, for the development of our resources. Our population must be increased by inducing our young men to stay at home and by inviting immigration from other States and countries. Increased opportunities and facilities for business will accomplish both of these aims. But business requires capital, and we must foster and enlarge the basis of credit.

Now, the Auditor's report for 1902 shows that property in Virginia consists of real estate assessed at \$27,514,491 and personally assessed at \$12,555,958. This report further shows that the taxes in 1902 were \$1,477,352.50 from realty and \$410,569.04 from personally. Thus the assessed value of real estate in Virginia is about three times that of personal estate, and the taxes derived from realty in 1902 were more than three times the amount derived from personally. We should therefore do all that can be done to promote dealings in real estate and to render it available as a source of ready credit in business. This will be the best, the surest and the quickest way to induce and secure general prosperity and development.

A bill is now pending before the Committee for Courts of Justice of the Senate and House of Delegates which will effect these purposes. This bill is known as Senate bill No. 25, for the establishment of the Torrens system of land registration. It is for the emancipation of real estate from every feudal fetter. It is for the conversion of real estate into a live asset. It is for the resurrection of investment values from the graves dug by obsolete rules and superannuated

ated laws. The time has come for the removal of useless restrictions upon transactions in real estate. The time has come when reality must as far as possible be placed upon a level with personality. The Torrens system enables you to deal with your real estate freely, and its adoption will mark a dawn of a new era in Virginia. To quote from one who has made a deep study of the subject: "It clears titles, it registers titles and it renders transfers of titles certain, quick and cheap." This is the experience of every country where it has been tried. What more could be desired? Let the pending bill be promptly reported by the Committees for Courts of Justice of both houses and promptly passed by the General Assembly.

OUR SYSTEM OF TAXATION.

The Montgomery Advertiser reproduces a paragraph from an article in this paper on the income tax, in which we said that the fatal defect of the income tax law in Virginia was the exemption clause, and in which we expressed the opinion that all individuals and all corporations should pay a moderate tax on their incomes, whether great or small. It adds:

"An The Times-Dispatch says, each person and corporation should bear a just proportion of the expenses of government; but how to accomplish that end is the difficulty which no law has yet surmounted. The exemption clause in the revenue law is always a source of worry to the officials and a loss to the State, and this is especially applicable to income taxes. If no income is taxed unless it exceeds \$500 a year, it leaves a loop-hole for escape which thousands will take advantage of. And, if, why should not the man who receives a yearly income of \$500 or \$600 pay something for the support of the government as well as the one who receives ten times as much? Each receives the protection of the laws in an equal degree, and each is equally benefited by good government, and it is difficult to see why one should escape all share of the burden."

"Taxation is necessary, and, within reasonable bounds it is right. In the interest of society we must have government, and government must have revenue, and its revenue must come from the people. But the burden of taxation should be made as light as the necessities of government permit, and the burden should be made to rest as evenly as possible upon all."

All fair-minded men are willing to bear their part of the burden, but no man is willing to bear more than his part, and every man is resentful when he finds that he is made to pay, while others, equally as able, and sometimes more able, are exempt. Here is a poor woman, for example, with a sewing machine, which she uses day and night to make a scant support for herself and those dependent upon her. And here is an able-bodied man who has a salary of fifty dollars a month, but no visible effects. The woman is made to pay taxes on her sewing machine and on all her little possessions in the household, because she has "property," whereas the man who has no effects goes free. We do not say that the owner of the sewing machine should be exempt, because there must be one rule of taxation for all owners of sewing machines. But we do say that the man with the income of \$500 a year should be made to pay also.

It is useless to argue that point in Virginia, however, for under the Constitution all incomes of \$500 and under are exempt, and we have no idea that an amendment to the Constitution to abolish that clause would carry. However, if the income tax law, as it now stands, were rigidly enforced against corporations and individuals, the State would get a much larger revenue than it is getting from that source. If the law is to be retained let it be fairly enforced; if it is not to be enforced, let it be repealed.

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CHARLESTON WANTS LIGHT.

The Charleston News and Courier says: "We have been somewhat disappointed that The Richmond Times-Dispatch had not gone more fully into the discussion of the true inwardness of the Southern educational movement, and particularly in view of the fact that the next conference in aid of the movement is to be held in Richmond the latter part of this month. We have supposed that our Richmond contemporary was fully informed upon the subject, and that it would know exactly what it is that this new movement expects to accomplish that could not be obtained as well, or better, through the agencies which have already been established in aid of education in the South."

If we have any information on this subject not possessed by our esteemed contemporary in Charleston it is not because we have been more highly favored than that newspaper, but because we have taken more trouble to learn. We are in no sense the mouth-piece of the Southern Education Board, we are in no sense authorized to speak for it, we are not its special champion. Some time ago, when the movement first attracted our attention, we took the trouble to make investigations, and being satisfied that it was a movement in the right spirit, and that it was conducted by sincere men, who were desirous of doing good, and especially being satisfied that these conferences for education would bring the leading men of the North and South into closer relationship, and, therefore, into a better understanding of one another, and being more especially satisfied that if the thoughtful men of the North would continue to come to the South and talk with our people and see the negro as he is, they would soon come to regard the negro question from the South's point of view—being satisfied on all these points, we gave the movement our sanction and commended it to our readers.

The News and Courier wants to know what it is that this new movement expects to accomplish that could not be accomplished as well, or better, through the agencies which have already been established in the aid of education in the South. The answer is that the General Education Board is not undertaking any new projects, is not working on independent lines, is working "through the agencies which have already been established in the aid of education in the South," is working with the constituted

authorities, is simply turning its money over to our representatives of government and permitting them to spend it in their own way. The Southern Education Board is a mere propaganda. It is simply trying to stimulate public sentiment in the interest of popular education, and to do this has employed such men as Melver, of North Carolina; Dabney, of Tennessee; Alderman, of Louisiana; Tucker and Frazer, of Virginia, and so on. Its Bureau of Information is in charge of Dabney, of Tennessee, who is a native born Virginian, who was educated at the University of Virginia, and who is Southern through and through.

It has done nothing in a corner. It has been able to discover. They have literature is scattered all through the South, and everybody is at liberty to see the doctrine which it is preaching. As for the Southern Conference for Education, it does not undertake to do anything whatever except to bring leading educators of all sections together for conference and discussion. There are no rules, there are no "resolutions." Every man comes as a free lance, is at liberty to say what he pleases and is in no sense committed to the views of any other man.

The Northern men who have interested themselves in this work are not sentimentalists, not fan-chasers. They are practical men of affairs, and they have no private ends to serve so far as we are not attempted to establish new schools, they have not tried to interfere in any way with our customs and traditions, they have not undertaken to lecture us. They have come in a spirit of modesty, in a spirit of friendliness, in a spirit of patriotism, and have asked the poor privilege of taking a hand with us in the work that we are doing.

Mr. Robert C. Ogden, a man whose name is prominently associated with the movement, and who has been presiding over the Conference for Education, is a business man of national reputation, having for years been the executive man in one of the largest mercantile establishments in the United States, and is about as far removed from fanaticism and idealism as any man in the country. At a meeting of the Union League Club, of New York, the other night, when Mr. John S. Wise and some other rampant gentlemen of the North urged the club to adopt a resolution urging Congress to reduce the representation of every State which has eliminated the negro vote, it was Mr. Ogden who got up and opposed and succeeded in defeating it on the plea that it was meddlesome and that the South should be permitted to solve these problems in its own way.

If there is anything bad in this movement we are as much interested as any in finding it out, and if we discover hereafter that it is bad or that it is not good for the South, or even that it is reasonably under suspicion, we shall lose no time in changing our attitude toward it, and in making known our discoveries or our apprehensions to the readers of this paper. We sincerely hope that the editor of the Charleston News and Courier and other editors throughout the South, and all who, having the South's interest at heart, also have their suspicions of this movement, will come to the conference to be held here next week and listen to the discussions, and talk with the men face to face and draw their conclusions.

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LIQUOR MEN
THE VICTORS

The Board of Aldermen Allowed Them to Appeal.

TRANSFERMATTERTABLED

Mr. James R. Gordon Against Allowing Appeal and Mr. W. M. Turpin in Favor of It—A Very Busy Session.

After a lengthy and certainly a most interesting debate, the Board of Aldermen last night took such action as practically amounts to reopening the liquor license fight, which has waged so persistently for the past three weeks or a month. Fully one hundred and fifty petitions for a decrease in license tax were admitted, after a fight, and was referred to the Finance Committee, with instructions to report to either branch of the Council. Among the applications were represented quite a number of businesses other than saloons.

Mr. Robert Whitteit, Jr., who was acting chairman, ruled that it was competent for the Board to consider applications for a relief from the license tax imposed on the merchants of the city, whereupon Mr. James R. Gordon, chairman of the Finance Committee, appealed from the decision of the chair. The result showed that the ruling had been sustained by a vote of 11 to 5, as follows:

CHAIR SUSTAINED.—Baker, Cottrell, Donohoe, Gunst, Mann, Satterfield, Washier, Whitteit, Wood, Zimmermann.

Notes (sustaining the appeal)—Adams, Gilman, Gordon, Minor, Sheppard—5. Barring the fight over the admissibility of the petitions from the merchants in regard to the license taxation, the meeting last night was not notable for its lack of interest, and the prevailing disposition of the members to attend to affairs of the city without any unnecessary delay.

The liquor question was not reached until the tail of the session, when President Turpin, who had quit the chair in favor of Mr. Whitteit, introduced, under the head of roll-call, a number of petitions from liquor dealers. Mr. Gordon objected, but before the matter was discussed at any length, acting President Whitteit ruled that the petitions were admissible and would be referred to the Committee on Finance for consideration and report.

Mr. Gordon said that although he never before had taken such a step, he would be compelled to do so in order to sustain the chair, whereupon the question was open to debate, and it was forthcoming. Mr. Gordon arose from his chair with a copy of the City Code in his hand. He read the ordinance, giving aggrieved merchants the right to appeal the license tax, and the appeal had already been taken. It was not competent for the Board to admit applications, and he used an able argument to impress this point upon his fellow members.

Mr. Turpin took issue with Mr. Gordon, it appearing that the gentlemen entertained a vastly different idea as to the wording of the ordinance. Mr. Minor and Mr. Gunst, along with several other members, participated in the debate, which at this time had become general, and the consensus seemed that the wording was deceptive. The ordinance plainly stipulates that any appeal from the finding of the Finance Committee shall be made to the first regular meeting of the City Council after the finding. Mr. Gordon said that the City Council meant either branch, while the other took it to mean the Common Council, any appeal being a concurrent measure.

Probably an hour and a half was spent in hearing the arguments, after which the vote was taken, and the chair sustained. Clerk August was flooded with petitions from complaining merchants, chiefly liquor men. Altogether, something over two hundred were received and referred. As stated, the measure is a practical reopening of the license tax arrangement, and more work for the Finance Committee.

Without debate the Board concurred in the action of the Council in laying the street car transfer recommendations on the table.

According to the Baltimore Sun, 35,000 copies of Miss Mary Johnston's book, "Prisoners of Hope," have been sold, and of "To Have and to Hold," 250,000. The sale of Audrey, also, has been large. The book which Miss Johnston is now engaged upon, "Sir Mortimer," is to be a psychological study, but her health is poor and she is slow in finishing this last work.

The Normal School girls' edition of the Farmville Herald was a thing of beauty and nothing but the ephemeral character of the paper it was printed on will keep it from being a joy forever.

With Cleveland in Jersey, Hill in New York and Waterson in Kentucky, it is difficult to conjecture what manner of game Colonel Bryan is searching for away off yonder in New England.

A Boston paper declares that President Diaz, of Mexico, is the best and greatest living ruler. That lets out Dave Francis, of St. Louis, and Carter Harrison, of Chicago.

There are no delegates and but few bears in the Yellowstone Park, and the two weeks' stay of the President therefore becomes a mystery.

Basing the calculations on last winter's prices, that new anthracite find in Pennsylvania is said to be worth about two billion dollars.

A thousand or more years from now scientists will be unearthing some of our bones and calling us prehistoric men.

And now comes Captain Stockton to predict another big "boxing" in China. Safe enough prediction, perhaps.

It is needless to say that Colonel Waterson did not attend the Vanderbilt-Nelson nuptials.

The indications are that Jupiter Pluvius will continue to pour tea for several days to come.

The fruit trees and flower beds may need another overcoat to-night.

Works like a Charm
GORHAM
SILVER POLISH
Cleans as well as polishes
Is extremely economical in use
All responsible jewelers keep it 25 cents a package

a nominal charge be imposed for all used in excess of the amount.

An ordinance from the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, authorizing the Corporation Commission to use four rooms on the fourth floor of the City Hall, the city to be reimbursed for the use of water and gas, was offered by Mr. Gilman.

LET THE STATE PAY.
Mr. Turpin said the matter should go to the Finance Committee, adding that he was opposed to the whole scheme. "Let the State of Virginia, who receives one-seventh of its revenue from the city of Richmond, pay the city for the rooms," said Mr. Turpin. "There is no good reason why we should grant this privilege."

Mr. Adams and Mr. Gordon could see no serious objection to giving up the rooms, the latter saying that he could see no need of the matter going to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Whitteit, acting chairman, ruled that the ordinance was not one for the Finance Committee, and that only a majority vote was necessary to enact the measure.

Mr. Turpin then said if the city was to give the rooms free of rental, it should certainly not charge for elevator service or the work of janitors.

"Let's be magnanimous, and don't do things half way," said he.

After much discussion the ordinance was passed by a vote of 10 to 6, as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. Adams, Donohoe, Gilman, Gordon, Minor, Satterfield, Sheppard, Washier, Whitteit and Wood—10.

Noes—Messrs. Baker, Cottrell, Gunst, Mann, Zimmermann and Turpin—6.

With the victory for the liquor men, the business before the Board ended, barring one or two minor resolutions, which were referred.

At five minutes to 12 o'clock adjournment was taken.

DEFECTS ARE NOT SERIOUS

No Structural Weakness in the Maine, Says Her Captain.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 14.—That the department officials might be fully advised of the behavior of the Maine on her recent cruise to the Caribbean and of the weakness that developed in the gun-mounts of her 6-inch guns, Captain Eugene H. C. Leutze, commanding the vessel, arrived in Washington to-day. Mr. Leutze, who was reported to the Secretary, the chief of ordnance and the chief constructor the condition of his ship.

"There is no structural weakness in the Maine," said Captain Leutze to-day. Her conduct was quite satisfactory, with the exception of the insecurity of the placements of the 6-inch guns. This can easily be remedied, and a board of officers, with representatives of the Gunpowder and the Navy, are now working to determine the extent and cost of repairs necessary.

SHAMROCK'S GOOD WORK

Without Pushing the Challenger Handily Beats Shamrock II.

(By Associated Press.)

WEYMOUTH, ENGLAND, April 14.—The two Shamrocks had a trial spin to-day to leeward and return. Neither wind nor sea seemed to trouble the challenger, which was fast and high in the wind, making about a quarter of a mile dead on windward in twenty minutes sailing. Having demonstrated the challenger's superiority in both pointing and sailing, Captain Wringe resigned from pushing his victory home. Even then the challenger scored handsomely, beating the Shamrock II. over six minutes in an hour's windward work.